

# Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
The power of human connections

## Beware of utility scam

JEFFERSON CITY -- The Missouri Public Service Commission has issued a warning of a scam in which utility customers are promised payment of their bills.

According to reports, consumers have been contacted in person and through fliers, social media, by phone and text messages with claims that President Obama is providing credits or applying payments to utility bills through a new federal program. To receive the money, scammers claim they need the consumers' Social Security and bank routing numbers. In return, customers are given a phony bank routing number that will supposedly pay their utility bills.

"People should always take steps to protect their personal information, such as Social Security numbers, credit cards or bank account numbers," said PSC Chairman Kevin Gunn. "Please keep your personal information private."

Here are a few ways you can prevent identity theft:

- Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you've initiated the contact and are sure you know who you're dealing with.
- Before you share any personal information, confirm that you are dealing with a legitimate organization.
- Do not disclose your credit card number to an online vendor unless it is encrypted and the site is secure.

See *Scam*, page 4



## New-Mac hits fairs



Once again, New-Mac was pleased to be a part of both the Newton (at left) and McDonald County (above) Fairs this past month. At the events, New-Mac representatives visited with fairgoers and showed them ways to be energy-efficient around the farm or home. Visitors also came away with fly swatters and bottled water. There were also drawings for weather radios won by Rita Stephens at Newton County and Kathy Underwood at McDonald County.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ❑ Another Stop on the Lines...page 2
- ❑ Recipe of the month .....page 3
- ❑ Doug Rye.....page 4



Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

## New-Mac still has rebates available

Sept. 1 is deadline for May purchases of washers, dishwashers

Remember New-Mac Electric still has rebates available for energy-efficiency improvements.

Currently, customers with an existing electric water heater or those building new homes can receive a \$50 credit for purchasing a new water heater, if it is at least 90 percent energy efficient and has a storage tank.

Also, a \$50 rebate is available for purchasing an *Energy Star* rated window air-conditioning unit. Limit one per address.

Customers with electric water heaters that purchased *Energy Star* rated clothes washers or dishwashers in May 2012 are also still eligible for rebates if they act fast. Those applications must be turned in by Sept. 1.

Additionally, rebates are available for dual-fuel or ground source heat pumps. The EER/SEER requirements are 19.1 for ground-source and 16.5 for dual-fuel.

For more information on rebates, visit our website, [newmac.com](http://newmac.com), or give us a call at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

### *Please watch out for school kids*

As kids head back to school this month, New-Mac Electric reminds everyone to be careful and keep them safe.

Drivers, please be attentive and look out for children around roadways. Parents, please instruct your kids to look before crossing streets and to stay away from traffic.

### *Make plans now for New-Mac's annual meeting*

Mark your calendars now for New-Mac Electric Cooperative's 2012 Annual Meeting, which will be held October 27 at Crowder College's gymnasium.

Learn about the cooperative's state of affairs, and enjoy the activities, entertainment and lunch that will be provided. Don't miss out on this big day on Oct. 27!

### *Assistance is available*

If you are having a problem paying your New-Mac account, please call us to make arrangements. Please don't disregard paying your bill. There are programs and options (such as budget billing) designed to assist you. So, please give us a call at 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM / EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**  
**Jasper County**  
 (417) 781-0352  
**McDonald County**  
 (417) 845-6011  
**Newton County**  
 (417) 451-2206

Another  on the lines 

## Local group preserving Civil War grounds

### 150th anniversary of battle nearing

Long before electric lines were strung across rural Southwest Missouri, soldiers marched, fought and died in local prairies. The Civil War was fought on this very soil.

Nearly 150 years ago, the first of the state's two southwesternmost battles commenced in eastern Newton County. The second took place a few acres from the site of the first, two years later.

There are plenty of artifacts to confirm this is indeed where the fighting took place. There's been bullets, coins, bayonets, and guns found all across the obvious battlefields, but that's not all that has been left behind to tell the historic tales.

It's no coincidence both battles occurred on this plantation in Newtonia. In the midst of the gunfire and cannon smoke stood the home of businessman



Although his involvement with the preservation group stems from his love for the Civil War, Tom Higdon does have a family connection to the Ritchey family. Above, he's seen reading the grave of his great, great, great aunt who married the son of Matthew H. Ritchey and is buried in the cemetery on the grounds.



**Built in 1851-52, the home of Matthew H. Ritchey has truly stood the test of time, enduring two Civil War battles and even \$100,000 worth of damage from the devastating May 2008 tornado that went through Newton County.**

and farmer Matthew H. Ritchey. His mansion, believed to have been built in 1851-52, served as a hospital and headquarters to both the Union and Confederate armies. And because the Ritchey Mansion still stands today, the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association (NBPA) knows it has something that sets it apart from most battle-field preservation groups.

"We have a building," said Tom Higdon of the NBPA, which owns the mansion and around 25 acres of the historic land. "A lot of places have nothing but a battleground and you go out and look at signs, but when you have a building and it's original like this, you want to preserve it."

The NBPA started in 1994, when founding members Kay Hively, David Weems, Larry James and Higdon learned funds were available from the National Park Service for archeological studies.

Over the years, grants and donations, such as an eight-acre farm from the Weems family, allowed the NBPA to reclaim much of the land once owned by Ritchey adjacent to the mansion, but the crown jewel came in 2002. It was then, the NBPA took possession of the mansion, although it didn't come easily.

At the time, a young couple from California decided to give up on their plans of renovating the antique home into a bed-and-breakfast.

"They offered to sell to us. We offered them less than what they wanted and they got mad at us and said 'You'll never buy it!'" recounted Higdon. "Well, we went and got a straw man and we bought it. They didn't even know we were buying it."

Currently, the mansion and battlefields are the subject of a feasibility study, examining whether or not the grounds should be added to the National

See *Battlegrounds*, page 3

## ○ Battlegrounds

*Continued from page 2*

Park Service. The study will also evaluate whether the Newtonia site could be a stand-alone unit or be part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Republic.

"We're hoping to become a satellite of Wilson's Creek," said Higdon. "They would probably have a ranger or two here, maybe a maintenance man and then the volunteers (the NBPA) would function as a *friends* group."

The NBPA believes if the National Park Service were to take them over, it would ensure the battlefields' protection. Plus, the NBPA members could still help with tours and receive donations to assist with projects since it is a 501(c)(3) charity.

"Right now, we owe nothing," said Higdon. "If the park service would want this. We'd just sign it over and it's theirs."

It's evident, there is much history to be preserved in Newtonia.

The first battle, a victory for the Confederates, occurred Sept. 30, 1862. It is unique because it is the only Civil War battle in which regimented Native Americans fought for both armies. Around 350 soldiers were killed that day.

The second battle was a victory for the North, in spite of the loss of 400 troops compared to 250 Confederates. This battle stands as the last that occurred in Missouri, a border state which featured over 250 conflicts – the only states that saw more fighting were Tennessee and Virginia.

The mansion itself displays its own battle scars. In the northeast corner of the exterior, you'll find a crater where a cannonball was once lodged, and the master bedroom features a floor painted black to disguise the blood stains from its days as a crude hospital operating room.

If you are interested in touring the Ritchey home, that can be arranged by calling Higdon at 417-437-5974. The house also serves as a museum featuring artifacts from the battles, examples of attire and antiques from the time-period, scale models of the house and large stone barn used in the first conflict, and a huge mural by local artist Doug Hall depicting the participation of Native Americans in that first battle – the piece was commissioned by the NBPA and funded by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Newton County Tourism Council.

The 150th anniversary of the first battle is fast approaching, and it will be observed with a special weekend Sept. 29-30 at the battlefields. According to the co-chairmen of the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the First Battle of Newtonia, Don and Denise Jessen, some of the activities will include: beginning at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, "A Living History" performance that will take place throughout the day featuring Union and Confederate soldiers and a cannon from the Wilson's Creek park, music from the Civil War time period, and crafting demonstrations from the era. Also, the mansion will be open for tours, allowing visitors to see some improvements that have been made through recent donations. Then on Sunday, the actual anniversary of the battle, a sunrise



Clockwise from top left, a cannonball left its mark on the Ritchey mansion; a blood stained floor is covered by black paint in the master bedroom; and numerous artifacts from the battles are on display in the museum.

memorial service will be held at the Newtonia Baptist Church, commemorating the soldiers who fought and died on the grounds. Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma will speak at this service, and an invitation has been extended to Senator Roy Blunt, who was instrumental in bringing about the ongoing feasibility study of the battlefields.

While much has changed in 150 years, visitors of the mansion and the battlefields stand to be amazed at how much has remained the same.

"We all love history," said Higdon of his fellow NBPA members, "and especially the Civil War."

And thanks to their ongoing efforts, others can enjoy history firsthand as well.

### Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:*

#### PIZZA SWISS STEAK

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Glenda Mosley**

2 lbs. tenderized round steak	½ cup water
¼ cup flour	½ tsp. sugar
2 tsp. salt	½ tsp. oregano
¼ tsp. pepper	sliced onion
1 (8 oz.) seasoned tomato sauce	mozzarella cheese
1 (5½ oz.) pizza sauce	

Combine flour, salt, and pepper. Pound into steak. Brown slowly on both sides in oil. Transfer meat to baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients except onion and cheese. Pour over meat. Top with onion slices. Simmer uncovered 10 min. Cover and bake at 350° for 1 hour till tender. Top with mozzarella cheese. Bake till cheese melts.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account number, to: *Recipes*, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or [recipes@new-mac.com](mailto:recipes@new-mac.com). If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

# Window tinting can significantly reduce heat gain in your house

Every month, I try to teach you ways to keep your utility bills as low as possible. Remember that most energy efficiency tips are attempts to lower the heating and cooling costs of the house. As I am always looking for ways to help you do just that, I had the opportunity to find another affordable tool for your energy-efficiency arsenal.

It is window tinting. I actually looked at window tinting years ago, but I didn't like the fact that it seemed to have to be silver, gold or really dark to work very well. Both of our automobiles have tinted glass, and I knew that they were more comfortable and easier on the eyes than most of the rental cars that I had used where the glass was not tinted.

Recently, I was conducting a seminar for Ozarks Electric Cooperative in Fayetteville, Ark. After the meeting, a fellow asked me why I didn't tell folks about the benefits of window tinting. I told him that I really didn't know that much about that subject and that I had doubts about window tinting meeting all the claims that I had heard. He gave me a nice package of material from 3M, a well-known company.

I told him that I would read the material. I did so and was impressed with the claims, but I remained cautious, as experience has taught me that many claims are just sales pitches. But I thought, 3M is a large and well-respected company, the warranty looks great, and if it performs anywhere near as good as it claims, I want to give it a try. So I called a dear friend who performs energy audits on a daily basis and asked him to find a house that might benefit by installing window tinting. He called me after just a few days to tell me that he had found the perfect house.

It was a 2,000-square-foot brick veneer house with 8-foot ceilings and about an equal number of windows on all sides of the house. The windows were single-hung aluminum with double-glazing and in good condition. The lady of the house said she couldn't use the dining room on the really hot days because of the extreme heat coming through the west windows, and that she couldn't enjoy her morning view of the mountains because of the heat through the

east windows.

Let's make the rest of the story short. I called the company and asked if they would do one house to prove that their product works as claimed. They said "yes." I called the family and asked permission to tint their windows. They said "yes." We met the crew at the house to measure the windows. It was 100 degrees at noon. The house thermostat was set on 75 degrees but the house stayed at 80 degrees. We met the next day to install tinting. It was 102 degrees at noon. Tinting was installed on all windows. The temperature where the sun was hitting the carpet went down about 10 degrees. The house temperature went down about 5 degrees, which is huge on a hot summer day.

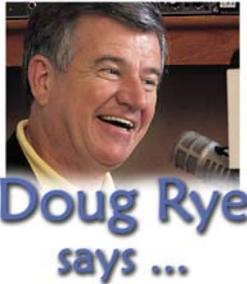
The claim was that the tinting would reject 56 percent of the total solar energy, 97 percent of the infrared rays and 99 percent of the UV rays, which practically eliminates fading. You could not tell by looking that there was tinting and there was much less glare. I believe that it passed the test.

The house was more comfortable and, as the lady of the house said, "I got my room and view back." If your windows are still in good condition, this may be an affordable energy solution for you.

Another success story with 3M tinting recently took place in an Arkansas home as part of the energy efficiency makeover. The couple's prized picture window, which provides a view of their beautifully landscaped yard and nearby woods, was tinted. An infrared thermal imaging camera showed that the tinting reduced the heat gain inside the house by 15 percent.

I hope this gives you yet another energy-efficiency option for your home. And, as always, you may call me for more information at 501-653-7931.

*Doug Rye is a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show – heard Saturdays at 9 a.m. on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 AM. If you would like advice from Doug, call his office at 501-653-7931. To order Doug's videos, call 1-888-Doug-Rye.*



P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86  
Neosho, Missouri 64850  
**Telephone:** 417/451-1515 800/322-3849  
**Fax:** 417/451-9042  
**Office Hours:** Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at  
[www.newmac.com](http://www.newmac.com).

## Management

CEO/General Manager ..... Mitch McCumber  
Manager of Administration ..... Mary Hatfield  
Manager of Operations ..... Stan Irsik  
Manager of Marketing ..... Mark K. Rakes  
Billing Supervisor ..... Vickie Stuart

## Board of Directors

District 1 ..... Martin Youngblood  
District 2 ..... Kenneth Daniels  
District 3 ..... Bobby Fields  
District 4 ..... Beryl Kennedy  
District 5 ..... Billy P. White  
District 6 ..... Paul Sprenkle  
District 7 ..... Maurice Mailes  
District 8 ..... Virgil Winchester  
District 9 ..... Dewey Allgood

## Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:  
**Autowithdrawal Payment**  
**Levelized Billing**  
**Rental Light**  
**Meeting rooms available at both locations**  
**Credit Card Acceptance**  
**Safety Programs (upon request)**  
**Surge Protection**  
**Green Power**

## Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes  
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO  
[mrakes@newmac.com](mailto:mrakes@newmac.com)

## Scam

*Continued from page 1*

- Do not write your Social Security number or telephone number on checks or credit card receipts.
  - Shred documents that contain personal or financial information such as bank statements, credit card applications, store receipts or utility bills.
  - Never allow anyone into your home to check electrical wiring, natural gas pipes or appliances unless you have scheduled an appointment or have reported a utility problem. Also, ask utility employees for proper identification.
- For more information, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-438-4338 or the Missouri Attorney General's Office at 1-800-392-8222.